

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A polyethylene spacer for optical fiber cable, ~~with which a thermoplastic resin, with compatibility with polyethylene, is applied as an intermediate coating layer onto the periphery of~~ including a central tensile member, an intermediate coating layer arranged on an outer periphery of the central tensile member and being compatible with polyethylene and with which a main coating ~~[[,]]~~ arranged on an outer periphery of the intermediate coating layer and having continuous spiral grooves that are for accommodating optical fibers and which are inverted periodically in direction along the length a lengthwise direction, ~~[[is]] the main coating being formed from polyethylene resin on the outer periphery of said intermediate coating layer,~~

said spacer for optical fiber cable including a plurality of ribs defining said spiral grooves, a ~~being characterized in that the~~ minimum rib thickness of ~~[[the]]~~ said ribs ~~that define said spiral grooves is~~ being 1.0 mm or less and ~~[[the]]~~ a groove inclination angle of ~~[[the]]~~ a cross-section of said spacer cross section ~~at the~~ inversion parts ~~[[is]]~~ being 18° or less,

a resin density of a root part of each of said ribs being the lowest in comparison to a resin density at a tip part of said rib and central parts of said rib between said root part of said rib and said tip part of said rib.

2. (Currently Amended) A polyethylene spacer for optical fiber cable, ~~with which a main coating, having continuous spiral grooves that are for accommodating optical fibers and are inverted periodically in direction along the length direction, is formed from polyethylene resin on the outer periphery of~~ including a central tensile member and a main coating formed from polyethylene resin and arranged on an outer periphery of the central tensile member, the main coating having continuous spiral grooves for accommodating optical fibers and being inverted periodically in a lengthwise direction,

said spacer for optical fiber cable including a plurality of ribs defining said spiral grooves, ~~a being characterized in that the minimum rib thickness of [[the]]~~ said ribs that define said spiral grooves is being 1.0 mm or less and [[the]] a groove inclination angle of [[the]] a cross-section of said ~~spacer cross-section at the inversion parts [[is]] being 18° or less,~~

a resin density of a root part of each of said ribs being the lowest in comparison to a resin density at a tip part of said rib and central parts of said rib between said root part of said rib and said tip part of said rib.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A spacer as set forth in claim 1 or 2, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ an average roughness of ~~the groove~~ bottoms of said spiral grooves is 1.2 μm or less.

5. (Currently Amended) A spacer as set forth in claim 1 or 2, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a spiral progression angle (β), as determined by:

$$\tan \beta = (d \times \pi \times \theta / 360) / p$$

where d is ~~[[the]]~~ an outer diameter of said spacer, θ is ~~[[the]]~~ a spiral groove inversion angle, and p is ~~[[the]]~~ a spiral groove inversion pitch, is ~~set in the range,~~ from 5° to 15°.

6. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber cable ~~characterized in using including~~ a spacer as set forth in claim 1 or 2 ~~to house and~~ and a plurality of tape-form optical fibers housed in at least one or more spiral grooves of said spacer.

7. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber cable ~~characterized in using including~~ a spacer as set forth in claim 1 or 2 ~~to house and~~ and a single-core optical fiber housed in at least one or more spiral grooves of said spacer.

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8-15. (Canceled)